

REMARKS

§112 Objections

Claim 2 has been amended to read “the axis” as suggested by the Examiner. Claim 6 has been amended to depend from claim 5 rather than claim 3 to give claim 6 proper antecedent basis. Claim 6 was originally intended to depend from claim 5, and was inadvertently written so as to depend from claim 3. Claim 10 has been amended so that the first and second positions of the lock member are consistent with the other independent claims. Claims 12 and 13 have been amended to state first and second directions as requested by the examiner.

Prior Art Rejections

A. U.S. Patent 5,224,681

Claims 1-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,224,681 to Lundstrom (hereinafter “Lundstrom”). Lundstrom relates to a Hand Releasable Locking Collar. Lundstrom discloses a locking collar including a body 1 configured to accept an end cap 2 and to provide a central channel with an inner cylindrical surface through which a shaft 9 may be gripped. The shaft 9 is gripped by a clutch plate 4 having an opening 21 through which the shaft 9 is passed. A spring 5 biases the clutch plate 4 at an oblique angle with respect to the longitudinal axis of the shaft 9. A sleeve 3 is fitted concentrically around the body 1 and is mounted to permit axial movement in a first direction. The sleeve 3 includes an actuating tab 7. When the sleeve 3 is moved in the first direction, the actuating tab 7 engages the circumferential pivot contact region 12 of the clutch plate 4.

1. Claim 1

In the September 24, 2001 Office Action, the Examiner stated:

“Lundstrom ‘681 discloses a support assembly comprising a telescoping assembly with a base pole (1), an adjustment pole (9), and lock member (12) coupling the base pole and adjustment pole, wherein the lock member comprises a locking plate (4) biased in a locking position having an aperture (21) being askewed in the lock position, a release member (7) biased to the lock position by spring, a housing (1 and 3) with locking member pivotally coupled therein at angles deviating from 90 degrees relative to the longitudinal axis, and the release member (7) positioned to slide on the housing, wherein the housing has groove (between 8 and 11) to receive end of lock member (4) and the release has a notch (between 7 and 11) receive the other end of the lock member (4).”

Amended claim1 requires “a lock member formed to include an edge defining a four-sided aperture.” Lundstrom discloses a clutch plate 4 including a central opening 21. Central opening 21 includes a plurality of projections 22 facing radially inward. Clutch plate 4 is shown in Fig. 2 of Lundstrom. Lundstrom fails to disclose a “four-sided aperture” as required by claim 1. Therefore, the Applicant believes that claim 1 is presented in condition for allowance and respectfully requests reconsideration of claim 1 with respect to Lundstrom.

2. Claim 9

Claim 9 requires “the lock member having a second position in which the edge [of an aperture in the lock member] engages the second member to prevent movement of the second

member relative to the first member in the first direction, movement in the first direction causing the pole assembly to shorten.” Movement by the locking collar of Lundstrom upon shaft 9 fails to elongate or shorten a pole assembly. Therefore, the Applicant believes that claim 9 is presented in condition for allowance and respectfully requests reconsideration of claim 9 with respect to Lundstrom.

3. Claim 10

Amended claim 10 requires “the lock member ... [having] a second position preventing shortening of the support assembly and permitting lengthening of the support assembly.” Lundstrom fails to disclose a position of a lock member in which lengthening of the assembly is permitted and shortening of the assembly is prevented. Therefore, Lundstrom fails to disclose “the lock member ... [having] a second position preventing shortening of the support assembly and permitting lengthening of the support assembly” as required by claim 10. Applicant believes that claim 10 is presented in condition for allowance and respectfully requests reconsideration of claim 10 with respect to Lundstrom.

4. Claim 12

Amended claim 12 requires a “support assembly ... comprising a base pole [and] an adjustment pole.” The Examiner states that body 1 of Lundstrom is a base pole. Applicant respectfully suggests that neither body 1 nor the locking collar as a whole is a pole. Pole is defined as “a long, relatively slender, ... piece of wood or other material.” The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language, Fourth Edition, 2000. MPEP §2111 requires that “During patent examination, the pending claims must be given the broadest reasonable interpretation consistent with the specification.” Applicant respectfully suggests that

interpreting “base pole” such that the locking collar of Lundstrom reads thereon is not a reasonable interpretation and is inconsistent with the specification. Therefore, Lundstrom fails to disclose or suggest “a base pole” as required by claim 12.

Claim 12 also requires that “force exerted on the adjustment pole in a second, assembly lengthening, direction urges the lock member to the first position.” First, force exerted on shaft 9 of Lundstrom fails to lengthen the assembly. Second, Lundstrom fails to teach that the position of circumferential contact region 12 is affected by forces applied to body 1. Therefore, Lundstrom fails to disclose that “force exerted on the adjustment pole in a second, assembly lengthening, direction urges the lock member to the first position” as required by claim 12. Therefore, the Applicant believes that claim 12 is presented in condition for allowance and respectfully requests reconsideration of claim 12 with respect to Lundstrom.

5. Claim 20

Amended claim 20 requires “the lock member being configured to move from the second position to the first position when an assembly lengthening force is applied to the adjustment pole.” As discussed with respect to claim 12, force exerted on shaft 9 of Lundstrom fails to lengthen the assembly. Also, Lundstrom fails to teach that the position of circumferential contact region 12 is affected by forces applied to body 1. Therefore, Lundstrom fails to disclose “the lock member being configured to move from the second position to the first position when an assembly lengthening force is applied to the adjustment pole” as required by claim 20. Therefore, the Applicant believes that claim 20 is presented in condition for allowance and respectfully requests reconsideration of claim 20 with respect to Lundstrom.

6. Claim 25

Amended claim 25, requires “a spring contacting the release and urging the release to the first position.” Lundstrom fails to disclose a spring in contact with a release. Therefore, Lundstrom fails to disclose “a spring contacting the release and urging the release to the first position” as required by claim 25. Therefore, the Applicant believes that claim 25 is presented in condition for allowance and respectfully requests reconsideration of claim 25 with respect to Lundstrom.

7. Claim 27

Claim 27 has been re-written in independent form to include all the limitations of claims from which it formerly depended. Claim 27, similar to claim 12, requires a support assembly including a base pole and an adjustment pole. As in the discussion of claim 12, Applicant respectfully suggests that neither body 1 nor the locking collar as a whole is a pole. Therefore, the Examiner’s construction fails to disclose “a base pole” as required by claim 27.

Claim 27 also requires that “the housing [includes] a groove sized to receive an end of the lock member.” The Examiner stated that “the release member (7) positioned to slide on the housing (defined by the examiner as 1 and 3) wherein the housing has groove (between 8 and 11) to receive end of lock member 4.” Applicant respectfully suggests that projection 8 of end cap 2 is not included in the housing of Lundstrom. Therefore, Lundstrom fails to disclose “the housing including a groove sized to receive an end of the lock member” as required by claim 27. Therefore, the Applicant believes that claim 27 is presented in condition for allowance and respectfully requests reconsideration of claim 27 with respect to Lundstrom.

8. Claim 30

Claim 30 has been re-written in independent form to include all the limitations of claims from which it formerly depended. Claim 30, similar to claims 12 and 27, requires a support assembly including a base pole and an adjustment pole. As in the discussion of claim 12, Applicant respectfully suggests that neither body 1 nor the locking collar as a whole is a pole. Therefore, the Examiner's construction fails to disclose "a base pole" as required by claim 30.

Claim 30 also requires that "the release [includes] a notch sized to receive an end of the lock member." The Examiner stated that actuating tab 7 of Lundstrom is a release member. Applicant respectfully points out that actuating tab 7 has no notch included therein. Therefore, Lundstrom fails to disclose "the release including a notch sized to receive an end of the lock member" as required by claim 30. If Examiner disagrees with Applicant's contention, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner point out with particularity where Lundstrom suggests such a limitation. Therefore, the Applicant believes that claim 30 is presented in condition for allowance and respectfully requests reconsideration of claim 30 with respect to Lundstrom.

B. U.S. Patent 5,629,074

Claims 1-29 and 31-37 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. '102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,629,074 to Toder (hereinafter "Toder"). Toder relates to an Intravenous Container Support. Toder discloses an intravenous fluid container carrier 20 including an elongated hollow tubular shell 21 within which is positioned an extension rod 22. The upper end of the extension rod 22 terminates in a hanger loop 23 configured to be hung from a ceiling track 25. The carrier 20 further includes an extension rod locking

mechanism. The locking mechanism includes an L-shaped actuating rod 37, a friction lock plate 47 that allows the rod 37 to be disposed in a slot 46 therein. A lower end of the extension rod 22 is coupled to an extension spring 50 that biases the extension rod 22 downward into the tubular shell 21.

The extension rod 22 is frictionally wedge locked by the lock plate 47 against moving upward out of the tubular shell 21. To release the lock, a user pulls downward on a locking actuator exterior ring 36 which causes the actuating rod 37 to be moved downward to thereby pull the friction locking plate 47 down into a horizontal position. This allows the extension rod 22 to slide upward out of the shell 21 against the restraining force of the extension spring 50. The ring 36 is released when the carrier 20 is at the desired extension to immediately cause the friction lock plate 47 to wedge lock the extension rod 22 against further movement. The extension rod 22 is withdrawn back into the tubular shell 21 by simultaneously pulling down on the actuator ring 36 and lifting the shell 21.

1. Claim 1

In the September 24, 2001 Office Action, the Examiner stated:

“Toder ‘074 discloses a telescoping assembly with a base pole (22), an adjustment pole (21) made of corrosion resistant material being stainless steel and plastic material (Col. 1, lines 14-15), and a lock member (47, fig. 11) coupling the base pole and adjustment pole; wherein the lock member comprises a locking plate (47) biased in a locking position having an aperture (48) being askewed in the lock position, a release member (37, 36, fig. 3) biased to the lock position by spring, a housing (27) with the locking member

pivotaly coupled therein and movable at angles deviating from 90 degrees relative to the longitudinal axis, and the release member (37) positioned to slide on the housing, wherein the housing has groove (between top edge of 21 and 27, fig. 11) to receive end of lock member (4) and a hook (23) mounted on adjustment pole.”

Amended claim 1 requires “a lock member formed to include an edge defining a four-sided aperture.” Toder discloses a lock plate 47 including a hole 48. Lock plate 47 is shown in Fig. 12 of Toder. Toder fails to disclose a “four-sided aperture” as required by claim 1. Therefore, the Applicant believes that claim 1 is presented in condition for allowance and respectfully requests reconsideration of claim 1 with respect to Toder.

2. Claim 9

Amended claim 9 requires a “lock member having a second position in which the edge engages the second member to prevent movement of the second member relative to the first member in the first direction, ... the lock member, when in the second position, being configured to allow movement of the second member relative to the first member in the second direction.” Toder fails to disclose a position of a lock member in which relative movement between a first member and a second member is allowed in a first direction and prevented in a second direction. Therefore, Examiner’s proposed construction fails to disclose “the lock member, when in the second position, being configured to allow movement of the second member relative to the first member in the second direction” as required by claim 9. If the Examiner disagrees with Applicant’s contention, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner point out with particularity where Toder suggests

such a limitation. Applicant believes that claim 9 is presented in condition for allowance and respectfully requests reconsideration of claim 9 with respect to Toder.

3. Claim 10

Amended claim 10 requires “the lock member ... [having] a second position preventing shortening of the support assembly and permitting lengthening of the support assembly.” Toder fails to disclose a position of a lock member in which lengthening of the assembly is permitted and shortening of the assembly is prevented. Therefore, Toder fails to disclose “the lock member ... [having] a second position preventing shortening of the support assembly and permitting lengthening of the support assembly” as required by claim 10.

Applicant believes that claim 10 is presented in condition for allowance and respectfully requests reconsideration of claim 10 with respect to Toder.

4. Claim 12

Amended claim 12 requires “that a force exerted on the adjustment pole in a second, assembly lengthening, direction urges the lock member to the first position.” Toder fails to disclose a lock member that is urged to a position by a force placed upon the adjustment pole. Therefore, the Examiner’s proposed construction fails to disclose “that a force exerted on the adjustment pole in a second, assembly lengthening, direction urges the lock member to the first position” as required by claim 12. If the Examiner disagrees with Applicant’s contention, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner point out with particularity where Toder suggests such a limitation. Applicant believes that claim 12 is presented in condition for allowance and respectfully requests reconsideration of claim 12 with respect to Toder.

5. Claim 20

Amended claim 20 requires “the lock member being configured to move from the second position to the first position when an assembly lengthening force is applied to the adjustment pole.” Toder fails to teach that the position of lock plate 47 is affected by forces applied to tubular shell 21. Therefore, Toder fails to disclose “the lock member being configured to move from the second position to the first position when an assembly lengthening force is applied to the adjustment pole” as required by claim 20. Therefore, the Applicant believes that claim 20 is presented in condition for allowance and respectfully requests reconsideration of claim 20 with respect to Toder.

6. Claim 25

Amended claim 25, requires “a spring contacting the release and urging the release to the first position.” Toder fails to disclose a spring in contact with a release. Therefore, Toder fails to disclose “a spring contacting the release and urging the release to the first position” as required by claim 25. Therefore, the Applicant believes that claim 25 is presented in condition for allowance and respectfully requests reconsideration of claim 25 with respect to Toder.

7. Claim 27

Claim 27 requires “the housing including a groove sized to receive an end of the lock member.” The Examiner states that Toder teaches a “housing having a groove (between top edge of 21 and 27, fig. 11) to receive end of lock member (4).” Applicant respectfully suggests that the “groove” defined by the Examiner is not included in the “housing”, but rather the “groove” defined by the Examiner is defined between collar 27 and tubular shell 21, not a housing including a groove. Therefore, Toder fails to disclose or suggest “the

housing including a groove sized to receive an end of the lock member” as required by claim 27.

Therefore, Examiner’s proposed construction fails to disclose each and every limitation of claim 27. Because claim 27 is distinguishable over Lundstrom and Toder, claim 27 is in condition for allowance and Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of claim 27.

8. Claim 31

Claim 31 requires “a release configured to slide on the housing.” The “housing” was defined by the Examiner to be collar 27 and the “release” was defined to be actuator exterior ring 36 and actuating rod 37. Neither ring 36 nor rod 37 slide on collar 27. Therefore, Toder fails to disclose or suggest “a release configured to slide on the housing” as required by claim 31. Therefore, Toder fails to disclose each and every limitation of claim 31. Because claim 31 is distinguishable over Toder, claim 31 is believed to be in condition for allowance and Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of claim 31.

C. U.S. Patent 4,163,536

Claims 1-26, were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. '102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,163,536 to Heller, et. al. (hereinafter “Heller”). Heller relates to a Support Device. Heller discloses an infinitely or continuously elevationally adjustable and freely movable support device 50 for assisting the performance of exact hand movements. The support device 50 comprises a socket member 10, an upright column structure including an upright tube 20, a guide tube 30, and a further guide tube 45. The support device 50 also includes a brake means 34 arranged in a housing 35.

The brake means 34 comprises two annular or ring-shaped brake rings or ring members 39, 39' which are arranged within a recess 37 of the housing 35. The brake rings 39, 39' are pivotably mounted at a related hinge or pivot pin 38, 38', respectively. At the other oppositely situated side of such brake rings 39, 39', a compression spring 41 is positioned between brake rings 39, 39' for urging brake rings 39 and 39' apart. The compression spring 41 urges both brake rings 39, 39' away from each other until the inner diameter-wall portions 39a, 39b cantingly bear at the outer diameter of the upright tube 20, with the result that the guide tube 30 is held in its position relative to the upright tube 20.

The brake rings 39, 39' are operatively connected with one another by a Bowden cable 40. The cable 40 is attached at one end at location 70' with the lower brake ring 39 and also bears against the top surface of the upper brake ring 39' whereas the free end 40a of such cable 40 is guided through an opening 42 in the housing 35 and is secured to a foot pedal 15.

When the foot pedal 15 is moved downwardly, the braking rings 39, 39' are no longer in braking engagement with the upright tube 20. It is then possible to optionally adjust the height of the support member 5 in the direction of the double-headed arrow 33 and upon release of the foot pedal 15, the brake rings 39, 39' are immediately brought into braking engagement with the upright tube 20 and thus, can be easily fixed in the selected height of the support device 50.

1. Claim 1

In the September 24, 2001 Office Action, the Examiner stated:

“Heller discloses a support assembly comprising a telescoping assembly with a base pole (20), an adjustment pole (30), an lock member (35) coupling the base pole and adjustment pole;

wherein the lock member comprises a locking plate (39') biased in a locking position by spring (41) having an aperture (39a, fig. 3) being askewed in the lock position, a release member (40) biased to the lock position by spring (41), a housing (34) with locking member pivotally coupled therein (at 70') at angles deviating from 90 degrees relative to the longitudinal axis, and the release member (42) positioned to slide on the housing."

Amended claim 1 requires "a lock member formed to include an edge defining a four-sided aperture." Heller discloses brake rings 39, 39' including inner diameter wall portions 39a, 39b. Brake rings 39, 39' are shown in Fig. 3 of Heller. Fig. 3 shows inner diameter wall portions 39a, 39b of brake rings 39, 39' abutting a round upright tube 20. Brake rings 39, 39' are expressly described as "ring-shaped." Heller fails to disclose a "four-sided aperture" as required by claim 1. Therefore, the Applicant believes that claim 1 is presented in condition for allowance and respectfully requests reconsideration of claim 1 with respect to Heller. In that Applicant believes that claim 1 is distinguishable over Lundstrom, Toder, and Heller and believes that claim 1 is presented in condition for allowance, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of claim 1.

2. Claim 9

Amended claim 9 requires "the lock member having a second position in which the edge engages the second member to prevent movement of the second member relative to the first member in the first direction, ... the lock member, when in the second position, configured to allow movement of the second member relative to the first member in the

second direction.” Heller fails to disclose a position of a lock member in which relative movement between a first member and a second member is allowed in a first direction and prevented in a second direction. Specifically, Heller discloses positions caused by engaging a foot pedal 15 where braking rings 39 are no longer in braking engagement with upright tube 20 and the height may be adjusted of support device 50. Also, Heller discloses that upon release of foot pedal 15, brake rings 39 and 39’ are immediately again brought into braking engagement to fix the selected height of support device 50. Therefore, Heller fails to disclose “the lock member, when in the second position, configured to allow movement of the second member relative to the first member in the second direction” as required by claim 9. If the Examiner disagrees with Applicant’s contention, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner point out with particularity where Heller suggests such a limitation. In that Applicant believes that claim 9 is distinguishable over Lundstrom, Toder, and Heller and believes that claim 9 is presented in condition for allowance, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of claim 9.

3. Claim 10

Amended claim 10 requires “the lock member ... [having] a second position preventing shortening of the support assembly and permitting lengthening of the support assembly.” Heller fails to disclose a position of a lock member in which lengthening of the assembly is permitted and shortening of the assembly is prevented. Therefore, Heller fails to disclose “the lock member ... [having] a second position preventing shortening of the support assembly and permitting lengthening of the support assembly” as required by claim 10. In that Applicant believes that claim 10 is distinguishable over Lundstrom, Toder, and

Heller and believes that claim 10 is presented in condition for allowance, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of claim 10.

4. Claim 12

Amended claim 12 requires “that a force exerted on the adjustment pole in a second, assembly lengthening, direction urges the lock member to the first position.” Heller fails to disclose a lock member that is urged to a position by a force placed upon the adjustment pole. As discussed with respect to claim 9, relative movement between the parts of support device 50 are only permitted when foot pedal 15 is depressed and brake rings 39, 39’ are in non-engaging positions. Therefore, Heller fails to disclose or suggest “that a force exerted on the adjustment pole in a second, assembly lengthening, direction urges the lock member to the first position” as required by claim 12. If the Examiner disagrees with Applicant’s contention, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner point out with particularity where Heller suggests such a limitation. In that Applicant believes that claim 12 is distinguishable over Lundstrom, Toder, and Heller, and that claim 12 is presented in condition for allowance, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of claim 12.

5. Claim 20

Amended claim 20 requires “the lock member being configured to move from the second position to the first position when an assembly lengthening force is applied to the adjustment pole.” Heller fails to teach that the position of brake rings 39, 39’ is affected by forces applied to guide tube 30. Therefore, Heller fails to disclose “the lock member being configured to move from the second position to the first position when an assembly lengthening force is applied to the adjustment pole” as required by claim 20. If the Examiner

disagrees with Applicant's contention, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner point out with particularity where Heller suggests such a limitation. In that Applicant believes that claim 20 is distinguishable over Lundstrom, Toder, and Heller, and that claim 20 is presented in condition for allowance, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of claim 20.

6. Claim 25

Amended claim 25, requires "a spring contacting the release and urging the release to the first position." Heller fails to disclose a spring in contact with a release. Therefore, Heller fails to disclose "a spring contacting the release and urging the release to the first position" as required by claim 25. In that Applicant believes that claim 25 is distinguishable over Lundstrom, Toder, and Heller, and that claim 25 is presented in condition for allowance, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of claim 25.

Claims 2-8

Claims 2-8 depend from claim 1. Because claim 1 is believed to be allowable, claims 2-8 are also believed to be allowable. Additionally, claims 2-8 are believed to contain independently patentable features.

Claims 11 and 14-19

Claims 11 and 14-19 depend from claim 10. Because claim 10 is believed to be allowable, claims 11 and 14-19 are also believed to be allowable. Additionally, claims 11 and 14-19 are believed to contain independently patentable features.

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Claim 13

Claim 13 depends from claim 12. Because claim 12 is believed to be allowable, claim 13 is also believed to be allowable. Additionally, claim 13 is believed to contain independently patentable features.

Claims 21-24

Claims 21-24 depend from claim 20. Because claim 20 is believed to be allowable, claims 21-24 are also believed to be allowable. Additionally, claims 21-24 are believed to contain independently patentable features.

Claim 26, 28, and 29

Claim 29 as originally filed, inadvertently depended from claim 26. Applicant intended for claim 29, and thereby claim 30 that depends from claim 29, to depend from claim 25 rather than claim 26. Claim 29 has been amended to reflect the Applicant's original intent and to overcome the Examiner's objection. Claims 26, 28, and 29 depend from claim 25. Because claim 25 is believed to be allowable, claims 26, 28, and 29 are also believed to be allowable. Additionally, claims 26, 28, and 29 are believed to contain independently patentable features.

Claims 32-37

Claims 32-37 depend from claim 31. Because claim 31 is believed to be allowable, claims 32-37 are also believed to be allowable. Additionally, claims 32-37 are believed to contain independently patentable features.

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New Claims 38-87

Claims 38-87 are newly added. Claims 38-87 are believed to be allowable and are believed to each contain independently patentable features. No new matter has been added in claims 38-87.

Final Remarks

It should be noted that claims 27, and 30 were neither broadened nor narrowed, but rather re-written in independent form. Applicants believe this application is in condition for allowance in its present form and it is respectfully requested that the Examiner so find and issue a Notice of Allowance in due course. The Examiner is asked to call Applicants' attorney, Ryan C. Barker, at (317) 684-5295 to address any outstanding issues to further expedite the prosecution of this application for all parties.

If necessary, Applicants request that this Response be considered a request for an extension of time for a time appropriate for the response to be timely filed. Applicants request that any required fees needed beyond those submitted with this Response be charged to the account of Bose McKinney & Evans, Deposit Account Number 02-3223.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment A

1. (Amended) A medical device support apparatus comprising
a telescoping pole assembly including a first member and a second member
movable relative to the first member along an axis in a first direction and a second direction
opposite to the first direction and
a lock member formed to include an edge defining [an] a four-sided aperture,
the second member being received in the aperture, the lock member having a second position
in which the edge engages the second member to prevent movement of the second member
relative to the first member in the first direction and the lock member having a first position
in which the edge disengages from the second member so that the second member is movable
along the axis relative to the first member in the first direction and the second direction.
2. (Amended) The medical device support of claim 1, wherein the lock
member and the axis define a first angle therebetween when the lock member is in the first
position and a second angle that deviates from the first angle when the lock member is in the
second position.
6. (Amended) The medical device support of claim [3] 5, wherein the
release is positioned to slide on the housing during movement of the lock member between
the first and second positions.

9. (Amended) [The medical device support of claim 1, wherein]

A medical device support apparatus comprising

a telescoping pole assembly including a first member and a second member movable relative to the first member along an axis in a first direction and a second direction opposite to the first direction, and

a lock member formed to include an edge defining an aperture, the second member being received in the aperture, the lock member having a second position in which the edge engages the second member to prevent movement of the second member relative to the first member in the first direction, movement in the first direction causing the pole assembly to shorten, the lock member having a first position in which the edge disengages from the second member so that the second member is movable along the axis relative to the first member in the first direction and the second direction, the movement in the second direction causing the pole assembly to elongate, and the lock member, when in the second position, being configured to allow[allows] movement of the second member relative to the first member in the second direction.

10. (Amended) A medical device support assembly configured to support a medical device thereon, the medical device support assembly comprising

a base pole,

an adjustment pole configured to support the medical device thereon, and

a lock member coupling the adjustment pole to the base pole, the lock member being moveable between a first position permitting movement of the adjustment pole relative to the base pole to permit shortening and lengthening of the support assembly and a second position [locking the position of the adjustment pole relative to the base pole] preventing shortening of the support assembly and permitting lengthening of the support assembly, the lock member being substantially flat to define a plane.

12. (Amended) [The medical device support assembly of claim 10, wherein]

A medical device support assembly configured to support a medical device thereon, the medical device support assembly comprising

a base pole,

an adjustment pole configured to support the medical device thereon, and

a lock member coupling the adjustment pole to the base pole, the lock member being moveable between a first position permitting movement of the adjustment pole relative to the base pole and a second position locking the position of the adjustment pole relative to the base pole, the lock member being substantially flat to define a plane, the lock member being configured such that a force exerted on the adjustment pole in a second, assembly lengthening, direction urges the lock member to the first position.

13. (Amended) The medical device support assembly of claim 12, wherein a force exerted on the adjustment pole in a first direction opposite said second direction urges the lock member to the second position.

20. (Amended) A medical device support assembly configured to support a medical device thereon, the IV pole assembly comprising

a base pole,

an adjustment pole configured to support the medical device thereon, the adjustment pole having a longitudinal axis, and

a coupling configured to couple the adjustment pole to the base pole, the coupling including a lock member configured to move between first and second positions, the lock member, when in the first position, and the longitudinal axis defining a first angle therebetween, the lock member, when in the second position, and the longitudinal axis of the adjustment pole defining a second angle therebetween that deviates from the first angle, the lock member being configured to permit movement of the adjustment pole relative to the base pole with the lock member in the first position, the lock member being configured to block movement of the adjustment pole relative to the base pole with the lock member in the second position, the lock member being configured to move from the second position to the first position when an assembly lengthening force is applied to the adjustment pole.

25. (Amended) A medical device support assembly configured to support a medical device thereon, the medical device support assembly comprising

a base pole,

an adjustment pole configured to move relative to the base pole, the adjustment pole having a longitudinal axis, [and]

a lock member positioned to block relative movement of the adjustment pole and the base pole, the lock member being configured to pivot about a pivot axis between a first position [said] blocking relative movement and a second position permitting [said relative] movement, [the pivot axis deviating from the longitudinal axis of the adjustment pole]

a release having a first position, the first position of the release configured to position the lock member in the first position of the lock member, and

a spring contacting the release and urging the release to the first position.

27. (Amended) [The medical device support assembly of claim 26, wherein]

A medical device support assembly configured to support a medical device thereon, the medical device support assembly comprising

a base pole,

an adjustment pole configured to move relative to the base pole, the adjustment pole having a longitudinal axis,

a lock member positioned to block relative movement of the adjustment pole and the base pole, and

a housing sized to receive the lock member, the lock member being hingedly coupled to the housing, the lock member being configured to pivot about a pivot axis between a first position blocking the relative movement and a second position permitting the relative movement, the pivot axis deviating from the longitudinal axis of the adjustment pole, the housing [includes] including a groove sized to receive an end of the lock member.

29. (Amended) The medical device support assembly of claim [26] 25, further comprising a release configured to pivot the lock member between the first and second positions, wherein the lock member is hingedly coupled to the release member.

30. (Amended) [The medical device support assembly of claim 29, wherein]

A medical device support assembly configured to support a medical device thereon, the medical device support assembly comprising

a base pole,

an adjustment pole configured to move relative to the base pole, the adjustment pole having a longitudinal axis,

a lock member positioned to block relative movement of the adjustment pole and the base pole, and

a release configured to pivot the lock member between the first and second positions, the lock member being hingedly coupled to the release member, the lock member being configured to pivot about a pivot axis between a first position blocking the relative movement and a second position permitting the relative movement, the pivot axis deviating from the longitudinal axis of the adjustment pole, the release [includes] including a notch sized to receive an end of the lock member.

31. A medical support device assembly configured to support a medical device thereon, the medical support device assembly comprising

a base pole,

an adjustment pole configured to support the medical device thereon, the base pole and the adjustment pole cooperating to define a pole assembly length, the adjustment pole being configured to move in a first direction relative to the base pole to decrease the pole assembly length and a second direction relative to the base pole to increase the pole assembly length, [and]

a coupling configured to couple the adjustment pole to the base pole to permit the adjustment pole to move in first direction relative to the base pole and an opposite second direction relative to the base pole, the coupling, the base pole, and the adjustment pole being made of corrosion resistant materials to prevent substantial corrosion thereof, and

a release configured to slide on the housing.